IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows.

Replace the first paragraph of the subsection titled "Background Information," beginning on page 1, and ending on page 2 with the following:

A1

- - In general, entertainment, education, art, and so forth (hereinafter collectively referred to as "content") packaged in digital form offer higher audio and video quality than their analog counterparts. However, content producers, especially those in the entertainment industry, are still reluctant in totally embracing the digital form. The primary reason being digital contents are particularly vulnerable to pirating. As unlike the analog form, where some amount of quality degradation generally occurs with each copying, a pirated copy of digital content is virtually as good as the "gold master". As a result, much effort ~~have~~ has been spent by the industry in developing and adopting techniques to provide protection to the distribution and rendering of digital content.- -

Replace the second new paragraph on page 13 with the following:

A2

- - Briefly, in block mode, block key section **502** is provided with a block cipher key, such as the earlier described authentication key K_m or the session key K_s; whereas data section **504** is provided with the plain text, such as the earlier described random number [[An]] A_n or the derived random number M_i-1. "Rekeying enable" signal is set to a "disabled" state, operatively de-coupling block

key section **502** from stream key section **506**. During each clock cycle, the block cipher key as well as the plain text are transformed. The block cipher key is independently transformed, whereas transformation of the plain text is dependent on the transformation being performed on the block cipher key. After a desired number of clock cycles, the provided plain text is transformed into ciphered text. For the earlier described video content protection method, when block key section **502** is provided with K_m and data section **504** is provided with the A_n, ciphered A_n is read out and used as the session key_s. When block key section **502** is provided with K_s and data section **504** is provided with the M_i-1, ciphered M_i-1 is read out and used as the frame key K_i.- -